an experimental basis in a few districts/sub-districts of 13 States and Union Territories. The Pilot Project is to be initiated in April, 2003 and expected to be completed within one year.

(c) The electoral identity cards issued by the Election Commission of India is not a universal system of identification based on compulsory registration of Indian citizens. On the other hand, Multipurpose National Identity Cards, apart from providing a credible individual identification system, would also have multifarious socio-economic uses.

Value of mineral production in the country

2240. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of mineral production in the country during the last three years, year-wise and sector-wise;

(b) whether there has been a consistent improvement in the level of production during the recent months in certain sectors while some sectors have lagged behind; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and steps proposed to be taken with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) As per information available with Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) a subordinate office under the Ministry of Mines, the total value of mineral production (excluding atomic minerals) in the country year-wise and sector-wise during the last three years is given in the Statement-I. enclosed. (*See* below)

(b) and (c) As per information furnished by IBM, Index of mineral production during last three years in given at Statement-II. (*See* below)

From the statistics given in the Index, it can be observed that production index of all sectors has increased in 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and in first nine months of 2002-2003 (April-Dec., 2002) in comparison to 1999-2000.

Statement-I

Value of mineral Production in the country
Production of Minerals 1999-2000 to 2001-2002

(value in Rs.'000)

Minerals	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002(P)
All Minerals	52306.61	58772.86	59509.28
Fuel Minerals	42676.17	478943.63	48547.56
Metallic Minerals	3550.47	3737.34	3806.21
Non-met. Minerals	1853.49	2034.78	1998.40
Minor Minerals	4226.48	5157.11	5157.11(R)

(P) Provisional and based on monthly returns to the extent available with IBM.

(R) Previous years figures repeated as current data have not been received yet.

Statement-II

Index of Mineral Production
(BASE: 1993-94=100)

Mineral Group	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002(P)	2002-2003 (P) (April-Dec., 2002)
All Minerals	127.47	131.08	132.39	136.05
Fuel Minerals	127.01	130.25	131.66	133.91
Metallic Minerals	121.86	130.62	132.15	149.88
Non-metallic Minerals	138.56	143.00	142.45	149.60

P: Provisional Based on average of monthly data.

Coal deposites found by GSI

2241. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has found large coal deposits in the Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra;